

September 2014 Board Meeting

Held @ Monticello Elementary School

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Members present

Nelson Yellowman, Bill Boyle, Debbie Christiansen, Elsie A Dee, Merri B Shumway

Others present

Superintendent Douglas Wright, Clayton Holt, Kit Mantz, Ron Nielson, Lynette Johnson, Tony Done, Spencer Singer, Melissa Slade

Meeting called to order at 12:31 PM

A. Approval of Agenda - 12:00 p.m.

1. Approve the Agenda

Motion to Approve the Agenda.

Motion by Debbie Christiansen, second by Merri B Shumway.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Nelson Yellowman, Bill Boyle, Debbie Christiansen, Elsie A Dee, Merri B Shumway

B. Board Closed Session

1. Personnel

All board members were present for this item.

2. Student Hearings

All board members were present for this item.

3. Legal

All board members were present for this item.

4. Bluff Land

Board Member Merri Shumway was not present for this line item.

Motion to go into Closed Session.

Motion by Elsie Dee, second by Nelson Yellowman.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Nelson Yellowman, Bill Boyle, Debbie Christiansen, Elsie A Dee, Merri B Shumway

C. Board Work Session

1. Preliminary School Enrollments

Superintendent Wright stated that student enrollment appears to be up slightly overall from last year at 3,027. In addition there are 119 pre-school students. The official count will be conducted on October 1 as required by Utah Code. One area of concern noted is the pattern of enrollment loss at Monticello Elementary School.

2. ACT Results

The Board reviewed a report of the ACT Results for the graduating class of 2014. The report provided scores and indicated college readiness standards as determined by ACT. Superintendent Wright noted that the ACT is now the only nationwide standardized test that we have in the District which allows us to compare our student performance with students across the United States.

3. Capital Projects

The Board continued its discussion on the list of future capital projects. One area of capital improvements that had not been discussed in depth in the past was bleachers, tracks, tennis courts and similar facilities. These considerations need to be discussed due to the possible donations that may be available from the NFL's Washington Redskins and its Original Americans Foundation.

Board President Bill Boyle noted that the discussion last meeting indicated that a decision on the replacement of Blanding Elementary School would determine placement of all other projects. If it is done first then others will have to wait while funds are replenished. If other projects are done first, then Blanding Elementary would be among the last projects.

Superintendent Wright recommended that a decision needed to be made within the next few months as it is important that we have a plan in place to guide the decision making process, budgets and planning. Superintendent Wright also noted some have erroneously believed that the preliminary discussions and recommendations have been adopted and there is some confusion as a result.

Board Vice President Debbie Christiansen inquired as to the needs of Blanding Elementary School and what the costs may be if the project is moved to the end of the list, instead of the front. Clayton Holt commented that there has not been a comprehensive list of maintenance issues created for the immediate needs and costs for the upkeep of Blanding Elementary School. Clayton Holt also noted that the existing facility is not of immediate concern.

Debbie Christiansen also inquired as to whether the projects, specifically San Juan High School, within the schools could be broken up in the interest of cost effectiveness, or if all school projects needed to be done within each school at once. Clayton Holt responded that while it may not be necessary to do all projects at the same time, cost effectiveness and planning are often enhanced when the various needs at a school are addressed at the same time.

Board Members discussed the possible impact of enrollment increases/decreases and the impact that capital projects in areas such as Bluff may have.

Superintendent Wright suggested that each board member carefully review the list and prioritize the projects in the order they would prefer. At the next meeting the lists can be compared and decisions made.

D. Reports and Presentations 2:00 pm

1. Report from Monticello Elementary -Julie Holt

Principal Julie Holt thanked the Board for the opportunity to report. She emphasized the gratitude from the staff, faculty and community for the beautiful new school and what the Board has done on behalf of the school. Principal Holt expressed that while they now have a beautiful new structure, what matters most is what is happening in the heart of the classroom.

Principal Holt explained that at back-to-school-night, the school and the community established three goals for improving attendance, communication and teamwork. Principal Holt noted that one area they are working hard on is outlining and practicing Systems for Success at Monticello Elementary School. The desire is to create systems for academics, behavior, assessment, and coaching.

Principal Holt also expressed her gratitude for the School Community Council and their diligent work in fundraising efforts, advocating with parents, encouraging communicating between parents and teachers, collecting and analyzing data from classrooms/teachers, and open discussions regarding concerns, goals, and avenues to assist at risk students. School Community Council members discussed with teachers the classroom priorities and how those priorities are driven/reflected in the data. Principal Holt also detailed a PLC program they are implementing and that they will be holding quarterly PLC staff meetings.

Principal Holt expressed concern regarding declining enrollment. Based on the numbers and the student-teacher ratio, the ability to have two sections of each grade is threatened. Principal Holt expressed her gratitude in allowing the school to maintain their staffing level despite the lower enrollment. Further, she noted that because of their advantage in teacher to student ratio there is simply no excuse for them to not have a very positive reflection in student achievement and scores.

E. Welcome and Recognition of Guests - 2:30 p.m.

1. Citizens' Comments

There were no Citizen comments.

F. Consent Agenda

- 1. Minutes**
- 2. Revenue Reports**
- 3. Expenditure Reports**
- 4. School Expenditure Reports**
- 5. Board Travel Reports**
- 6. Personnel Report(s) and Information**
- 7. Home School Requests**
- 8. Amendments to School Activity Requests**
- 9. Student Hearings**
- 10. Approval of all Consent Agenda Items**

Motion to approve all consent agenda items.

Motion by Nelson Yellowman, second by Merri B Shumway.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Nelson Yellowman, Bill Boyle, Debbie Christiansen, Elsie A Dee, Merri B Shumway

G. Action Items

1. Board Travel Requests

Board Member Elsie Dee requested approval to attend the Johnson O'Malley Sub-Contractors Fall Conference, in Phoenix, AZ September 23-25, 2014

Motion to approve Elsie Dee's travel to the Sub-Contractors Meeting in Phoenix, AZ.

Motion by Debbie Christiansen, second by Merri B Shumway.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Nelson Yellowman, Bill Boyle, Debbie Christiansen, Elsie A Dee, Merri B Shumway

2. Board Travel Budget

Action deferred to next meeting pending more detailed numbers and additional review by Board members.

No action taken at this time.

3. Policy 5430 Student Travel Policy: Instructional Field Trips

Superintendent Wright outlined changes to the policy. First, Superintendent Wright recommended changing the policy to allow field trips to be taken during the last two weeks of school. Second, the policy will require teachers to obtain permission for field trips and outline the educational value of each field trip from the principal prior to the field trip. Third, parental permission will be required separately for each field trip.

Ron Nielson commented on the benefits of incentive based field trips, rewarding students for academic achievements accomplished during the school year. Mr. Nielson encouraged the School Board to allow such field trips as he believes the incentive can help encourage students' performance. Clayton Holt also commented that there are now virtual field trips offered that will not require parental permission because the students do not actually leave their classroom.

Superintendent Wright recommended approval on a first reading basis.

Motion to approve Policy 5430 Student Travel Policy: Instructional Field Trips, on a first reading basis.

Motion by Debbie Christiansen, second by Merri B Shumway.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Bill Boyle, Debbie Christiansen, Elsie A Dee, Merri B Shumway

Not Present at Vote: Nelson Yellowman

H. Discussion Items

1. Faculty and Student Recognition

Antoinette Dee received the Master Advisor Award in Nashville, TN.

Matt Baldwin was awarded runner-up for Teacher of the Year for the State of Utah. Matt received a \$4,000 and attended a banquet held on September 5th.

2. Preliminary Report, Montezuma Creek Elementary

Clayton Holt outlined the preliminary report from the forensic engineer working to identify the cause of the CO incident at Montezuma Creek Elementary School. The report indicates that the fuel mixture being burned in the water heater was out of balance due to incorrect setting. It has not been determined as to how the heater's setting was incorrect. The report also states that while there were two water leaks found on the system, they were not the cause of the problem.

Clayton Holt explained that all of the parties involved including the manufacturer, workers compensation, subcontractors, installers, have attorneys involved and are gathering information and reports.

I. Adjourn Meeting

1. Information on next Board Meeting

The next Board Meeting will be held:

Date: **October 14, 2014**

Time: **3:00 PM**

Location: **San Juan School District Office, Blanding UT.**

Reporting: **Blanding Elementary School, Bluff Elementary School**

2. Adjourn the Meeting

Board Officer

Business Administrator